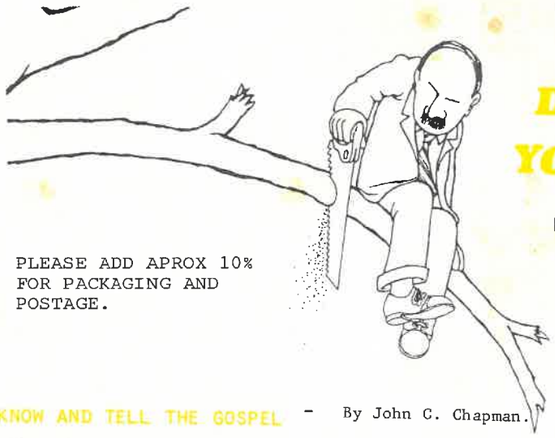

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OCTOBER 1981

The Privilege of Praying for God's Work

"Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people." Ephesians 6.18 (TEV)

DAY 1. Sister Noni Bridges working with Senior Citizens and children, Melbourne, Vic.
Pray also for an increased number of young women answering the call of God to serve as Evangelists in the Church Army.

DAY 2. Captain Trevor and Shona Brooks, working in the Cullen Bullen/ Portland areas of Lithgow Parish, N.S.W.

DAY 3. Sister Lyn Bullard, Parish Evangelist and Youth Director at Coff's Harbour, N.S.W. and Missioning beyond the Parish.

DAY 4. Captain Kevin and Lyn Cullen at Forestville, N.S.W. and the Aerial Ministry throughout Australia.
Pray especially for plans being made now for Kevin's ministry in 1982.

DAY 5. For increased financial support for our work. For new opportunities for evangelism. For suitable placements for new Officers to be Commissioned in December.

DAY 6. Sister Lyn Cox and her husband Geoff at Minto, N.S.W.
Pray also for increased opportunities for Church Army to contribute to the training of lay people for mission in their local situation.

DAY 7. Captain John and Dianne Symons, B.C.A. Mission Parish at Middlemount. Qld.

DAY 8. Sister Wendy Ferguson at Calrossy Girls' School, Tamworth, N.S.W. and weekend Youth Ministry at West Tamworth.

DAY 9. Sister Pat Free, Industrial Chaplain with the Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission (Sydney area).

DAY 10. The ministry of Church Army Missioners. For Parish Missions planned for Kingaroy, Mt. Gambier and St. Luke's Girls' School, Brookvale. Teaching programmes at Queanbeyan, Maroubra and Bathurst. Principal's visit to Suva.

DAY 11. Captain John and Joan Harding at Moree, N.S.W.
Pray also for the External Student Programme at the College of Evangelism. Pray that God will guide us as we plan the 1982 programme and advertise the availability of courses.

What is an Evangelist

"And what do you do for a living?" The middle aged lady enquired at a country social function. "I work as an Evangelist with the Anglican Church", I answered .... After a long pause she replied, "Oh.....that's nice....Er ....I didn't think that the Church of England had *those!*"

I never did get to find out what she imagined *'those'* to be. Most of us who have worked as lay evangelists can tell a host of amusing and not so amusing stories about the way people react when you tell them that you are an "evangelist".

Even at this time, when there is a growing acceptance of the need for effective evangelism and a growing number of people asking for help to participate effectively in this area of mission, there is widespread confusion about the role of the person affirmed by the Church to work as a full-time evangelist.

What does such a ministry involve? Most people would answer this with such replies as, "being someone who preaches the gospel for a living", "being the someone who goes out to look for the lost sheep", or "someone who introduces people to Jesus" and similar answers. As far as they go, these answers are, of course, quite correct. A person, such as a Church Army Officer, who has been "admitted to the Office of Evangelist in the Church of God" will do all of these things in the course of his or her ministry. But ironically, it is not these activities in themselves that make such a person an Evangelist, (with a capital "E"). For, despite what the average Anglican parishioner would like to believe, these tasks are equally the responsibility of every Church member as much as those called to full-time ministry.

The New Testament is very clear about what the job of Evangelist is, and it isn't what most people think. Ephesians 4:11-12, tells us:-

"And Christ gave to the Church some men to be Apostles, some to be Evangelists, some to be Pastors and Teachers - for the equipping of God's people so that they should do the work of the ministry with a view to the building up of the Body of Christ."

There are no "ifs" or "buts" about it. The New Testament makes it quite clear. The work of the ministry (part of which is evangelism - "proclaiming the Good News" - "sharing the Gospel"), is meant to be done by all of God's people. That is, by the average man or woman who is a follower of Christ.

Paradoxically, ministry is not the job of *the* minister! Ministry is the job of the lay-person. The job of the Minister, i.e. the full time or "professional" person (be he Pastor, Teacher, Evangelist or Apostle), is to motivate and train lay people to *do* the work of ministry.
Hans Reudi Weber says it this way:-

"The laity are not helpers of the clergy so that the clergy can do their job, but the clergy are helpers of the whole people of God, so that the laity can be the Church."

To use Elton Trueblood's analogy, Christians are not like members of an orchestral society, who hire musicians and a conductor and sit back and

Letting North Queensland Know

Capt.Polgen, Capt.Page and Sr.Bullard at Palm Island.

Effective Church Army ministry, opportunities for Evangelism, and strategic placements for our Evangelists depend on Church Army being known and our purposes understood.
Recently a Church Army Team visited Central and North Queensland to visit Officers working in the area, (Captains Polgen, Malcolm and Symons), to take part in various evangelistic activities arranged by the Diocese, to seek wider support for our work and to make known to Anglicans in this part of Australia the ways in which our Society can assist the Church in Mission. The effectiveness of this venture was multiplied greatly by helpful and accurate media coverage. The following article reproduces the well researched article written by Neil Naessens and published in the Townsville Daily Bulletin giving many readers over a widespread area their first awareness of our work.

"Mention the 'Army', and most people will associate it with the Salvation variety, if not the other one that goes around in floppy hats and black shoe polish.

There is, in fact, another Army not too many people are aware of; the 'Church Army in Australia' an autonomous society working within the Anglican Church. The Salvation Army was founded by former Methodist minister, William Booth, in London, in 1878.

The Salvos are now a world-wide Christian Church in their own right. However, as an organisation, the Church Army is much smaller, but its credentials aren't any less impressive. It was founded in 1882, by the curate of a Church of England parish in London, Wilson Carlile, primarily as an evangelistic organisation involving lay members of the Anglican Communion.

The latter now includes the Church of Wales, the Church of Ireland, the Episcopal Church in Scotland, the Anglican Church in Canada and Australia, and the Episcopal Church in the United States. Its lay evangelists of the Church Army set up shop in the United States in 1927. Canada 1928, and became established in Australia in 1934. Since then, other autonomous Church Army societies have been formed in New Zealand (1935), East Africa (1962) and Jamaica (1969), while Church Army officers from several societies are also at work in Germany, South America, South Africa, Belize, Italy and Pakistan.

Yesterday, the Federal Director of the Church Army in Australia, Sydney based Captain Gilbert Page, was in Townsville with two other Church Army evangelists, Captain Kevin Cullen, also from Sydney, and Sister Lyn Bullard of Coff's Harbour.

TWO RANKS: In contrast to the Salvation Army, the Anglican Church variety has not gone overboard with ranks. In fact, there are only two; 'Captain' for the men, and 'Sister' for the women. After two years of training at the Church Army's College of Evangelism in Sydney, successful graduates plunge into the fray as fully-fledged Captains, and that's as far as it goes. The same goes for the Army's Sisters.

over the years in the high-rise Commission flats of Riverwood, N.S.W. A daily demonstration to local Christians that loving care and sacrificial availability builds bridges that enable people to cross over and eventually find Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Other Officers, such as Sister Lyn Bullard with her training programme in Witnessing for seventy young people in the Coff's Harbour area, Captain Glen Scott with his small groups course on Personal Witnessing at Grafton or Captain Mark Rogers training young people for Coffee House Ministry at Redcliffe, Queensland, are all heavily involved in enabling people for ministry that "the body of Christ might be built up."

General Synod has recently expressed it's concern for effective evangelism in our Church. Can this happen without a strong body of men and women giving themselves to a specific concentration on excellence in this area of mission.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Church presently needs hundreds of people to work as enabler-educators and to model effective ministry as a pattern to be followed.

It does not have such people because it does not encourage young Christians to see such a ministry as equally important as Priesthood and Diaconate. It also has, up until now, been unwilling to re-organise its priorities to put money into this area of mission.

The balance-sheets of our Dioceses and Parishes tell their own story. Evangelism rarely has been regarded as a serious concern worth spending money on or employing people to specialize in.

Let us pray and work for a change in these attitudes - or there will be little significant change in the present situation.

Evangelism Conference in Fiji

The Diocese of Polynesia is holding a Diocesan Conference on Evangelism. The Bishop in Polynesia has invited every Priest working in Fiji and the many surrounding islands that make up the wide-spread Diocese plus two lay-people from every parish to attend.

The Rev. Graeme MacRobb, Principal of the Church Army College of Evangelism here in Australia, has been invited to be the main Speaker/Consultant with two local laymen also giving addresses.

Mr. MacRobb's contribution will be in the areas of helping parishes to explore ways to motivate lay-people to participate effectively in Mission. There will be some consideration of the principles of evangelism that must be considered if local mission is to be effective. This will be followed by dialogue-discussion in which the local people will have the responsibility of exploring how they can apply these principles in their own indiginous situations. He will be in Fiji for one week. Four days at the Conference and the other time spent in consultation work.

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(d) To consider possible causes of present problems and affirm the positive advantages possessed by the parish that could be capitalised and used towards growth and development.

(e) To help participants realise the meaning of individual ministry and to begin to discern the nature of their own calling as a lay-person active in the mission of their local Church and community in that area.

(f) To appreciate the relationship between what they do in worship and their other activities that they undertake, as part of the Christian Church.

The extent which it is possible to achieve some or all of these objectives in a weekend programme depends on the seriousness of the situation facing the parish. While teaching in each of these areas by the Consultant-Missioner is an integral part of the programme, the main emphasis is motivational and relational - facilitating the local people to grapple together with the task of becoming the Body of Christ in their own district.

While programmes differ, according to differing needs, most Workshops have involved meeting for five or six sessions. A typical programme would be:

Session One: (Friday 7.30 - 9.00 p.m.) "What is the Mission of the Church?" and "What would it really mean to be the Body of Christ here?"

Session Two: (Saturday 1.30 - 3.00 p.m.) "What does it mean to be the Church Together?" and "Signs of Health and Symptoms of Sickness." (Exploring options that could lead to increased effectiveness as a Parish).

Session Three: (Saturday 3.30 - 4.30 p.m.) "What does it mean to be the Church in the World" and "What is Life-Style Evangelism."

Session Four: (Saturday 4.30 - 6.00 p.m.) "Eucharistic Workshop - (Seeing the relationship of our worship to mission and providing a simple opportunity for expressing new commitment to ministry to each other and mission in the world.)

Sunday Worship: The Workshop Leader preaches at all Sunday Services usually on the theme of every member ministry and on discerning our gifts for ministry.

Session Five: (After the Sunday Services) "Where do we go from Here" and "Setting personal goals for my Ministry."

The Workshop Leader is then usually available for personal interviews after lunch. Several parishes have followed up the programme by a special Parish Council or Vestry Meeting to set new goals and to reconsider their priorities in the light of weekend growth and learning.

Results from Workshops vary. We have seen some places see rapid change and development as a direct result of such a programme. Some parishes have seen the fruit in individuals that have discovered new directions and discerned their own role in mission. Others have seen a change in parish priorities and even a complete change in the goals accepted by the Parish Annual Meeting. In some places the effects have not been obvious straight away. New awarenesses often take time to work through into new activity.

This we do know! We are convinced that such programmes or similar activities that achieve the same ends are what is needed! We are convinced that no parish exists that cannot benefit from taking a long hard look at its life-style and then appraise its goals in the light of that examination.

young teens are presenting Christ to others through as many channels as possible.

YOUTH MINISTRY: (13-20 year olds)
In this area I am mainly involved in running camps and outreach programmes; teaching the I.S.C.F. groups (in each of the Primary Schools as well as High School); Counselling (in which I relate to young people coping with the pressures of teenage life); Introducing youth to Christ; Teaching them how to hear God clearly; Training up and encouraging youth leaders and potential leaders and ministers; Helping them to find their gifts and goals. Ministering to the Leaders of Youth Groups by mid-week prayer, sharing and bible study.
My Immediate Aim: To preach Christ as Lord to young people, to build them up socially, spiritually and in serving God.

MINISTRY TO ADULTS: (particularly in the 20-35 age group).
This presently involves me in Bible Study, prayer, praise and sharing; some crisis counselling, discipling and leadership development.
My Immediate Aim: To get single and married young adults to minister to each other, to minister to the Church, to minister to those outside the Church. To raise up leaders in the Church and to help people to find where their gifts and ministries lie.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: In this area I assist Christian Education teachers in schools and Sunday School teachers from all centres by sharing resources, by spiritual encouragement and providing prayer support. So far we have introduced a course on methods, discipline, story-telling, music, and other useful information on teaching scripture.
My Immediate Aim: To build up and encourage Christian Education teachers.

COUNSELLING: I spend some time each week interviewing people with problems.
My Immediate Aim: To help such people to find effective ways by which they themselves, with God's help, can be strengthened and healed in body, soul and spirit. I see this as another way to proclaim Christ and His infinite power and love as the solution to all problems - to help troubled people to realise that He died for our every need.

PREACHING AND ASSISTING AT SUNDAY SERVICES: My major personal contribution in this area of parish life is in serving the people with the word of God and proclaiming the gospel of Christ.
My Immediate Aim: To minister healing and all that Isaiah 61:1-5 means.

EVANGELISM: In this I have a two-fold task. Firstly, taking advantage of opportunities that arise in my ministry, to present the Good News of Christ's death and resurrection, that people I relate to might be saved. Secondly, by training people to share Christ with others. We have commenced training seventy young people (on an Inter-Church basis), to work as Evangelists with their local Church and to work with me in outreach activities beyond the parish. So far this group has organised an outreach programme attended by five hundred local young people. They have also visited Byron Bay Parish to conduct a Mission weekend.
My Immediate Aim: To help people to find ways of sharing their faith under the power of the Holy Spirit - and then do it.

OUTREACH BEYOND THE PARISH: For up to three months each year I am available to work in other parishes as a Church Army Missioner, taking Missions, leading Camps, training laity and sharing in deputation work.
My Ultimate Aim: To answer God's call on my life to be a full-time missioner.

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